515 holy place, and even today children are warned against making too much noise while bathing. [844] In earlier times most babies were born in the sauna--a wise precaution, for the sauna is practically germ-free. Certainly the sauna has contributed much towards the traditional cleanliness of the people. It has been a valuable asset for Finnish sportsmen, and through them it has become known throughout many parts of the world. Finnish emigrants have brought the idea with them to their new homes, and in Scandinavia as well as in North America one often encounters a typical Finnish sauna.

857 526 By force of circumstance, Finnish children become familiar from a very early age with skiing, rowing and swimming, and they also have opportunities to become experts at the